

A MILLION FOR THE FIRE CLAIMS

The Senate Bill Passes the House Without a Dissenting Voice.

In Addition to Sum Appropriated by Congress Hawaii Will Raise Nearly Half a Million Through the Sale of Bonds.

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE ADVERTISER.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19.—The Senate bill, providing for the appropriation of \$1,000,000, for the partial payment of the awards of the Court of Fire Claims of the Territory of Hawaii, passed the House of Representatives today, without a dissenting vote.

This disposes of this measure so far as the legislative branch of the government is concerned, the Senate having passed the bill at the long session last summer. It now goes to the President, and as the Chief Executive, in his last message, urged the action which has just been taken, there is no doubt of his affixing his signature.

J. G. Pratt, who has been here for the purpose of making the fight for this measure, as the representative of the commercial bodies of Honolulu, will stay for a few days further for the purpose of arranging with the officials of the Interior Department, the form of bonds which shall be issued by Hawaii to carry out the further provision of the bill, that the Territory may sell bonds not to exceed \$500,000 to complete the payment. The bill takes effect immediately upon its signature.

E. G. WALKER.

The first news of the passage of the Fire Claims measure came to Honolulu early yesterday in the form of a cablegram from J. G. Pratt to W. W. Hall, chairman of the committee under whose direction the work for the measure has proceeded. The message said simply: "Bill passed Congress," but these words posted where they were seen by every one caused a general feeling of congratulation during the business day.

The bill which has just passed provides in its first section that the sum of \$1,000,000 be appropriated for the payment of the claims. The second section provides that there may be issued by the Territory of Hawaii bonds to the amount of \$500,000, for the purpose of meeting the remainder of the award. The bonds must be payable in gold, bear interest at the rate of four per cent per annum, and be redeemable in not less than five years and payable in not more than fifteen years, may be sold at not less than their face value, and the proceeds may not be applied to any other purpose than that specified.

The third section of the bill provides that no attorney or agent for any claimant may receive more than ten per cent for services in relation to the pressing of a claim, and where a contract has been made at a lower figure it may not be increased. As well the provision is made that payments must be in full satisfaction of all claims against the United States and the Territory on account of the fire for the suppression of the bubonic plague.

There is due on account of the fire claims \$1,325,855.70. The total award of the court, which spent nearly all the past summer in the hearing and adjudication of the claims, was \$1,473,173. The act creating the court, and providing for payment of the awards at the rate of \$500,000 a year, for three years, specifically set aside any monies received from the United States in payment of the amount of interest paid by the Territory after annexation on bonds assumed by the National government, for the purpose of applying upon the claims. The amount appropriated by the last session of Congress on account of the interest charge was \$140,000, and when this was received a dividend of ten per cent on the claims was paid, amounting to \$147,317.30.

The appropriation of \$1,000,000 by the National government was asked as soon as it was found that there were no revenues of the local government for the purpose of meeting the charges, and Mr. Pratt was sent on for the purpose of meeting the many questions and advancing the cause in any way possible. He was able to secure the passage of the measure through the Senate before the adjournment of Congress, and the commercial bodies which sent him to the Capital last session returned him this year to press the work.

The passage of the measure gives the liveliest satisfaction here, as it is expected that immediately there will be steps for the payment of the added amount carried by the appropriation from the Federal Treasury. While no facts have come to hand from Mr. Pratt it is concluded that the money will be sent down here in the form of cash and an agent of the Federal authority will assist in the distribution or at least see that it is turned into the Territorial treasury for the purpose.

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CHAS. H. CLARK IS ARRESTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Boyd's Appointee for Superintendent of the Kalihi Detention Camp Did Not Turn in the Rents He Had Collected—Promises Did Not Pan Out.

Charles H. Clark, Superintendent of the Kalihi Detention Camp and a Hawaiian prominent in politics, was arrested yesterday evening on a warrant sworn to by C. M. White, Chief Clerk of the Public Works Department, on a charge of embezzlement of public moneys amounting to \$551. He was released on a bond in the sum of \$1,000, James Holt, Deputy Tax Assessor, being his surety.

The funds which Mr. Clark is charged with embezzling are the aggregate of rents collected from the tenants at the Kalihi Detention Camp for four months past, no part of which, it is said, has been turned into the Public Works Department in that time.

Superintendent of Public Works Cooper is on the island of Hawaii at the present time and in his absence the warrant was sworn to by Mr. White at the instance of Governor Dole. Mr. Clark had promised to pay over the money by 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon but did not put in an appearance at that time nor later, and it was then decided by the government that he should be arrested and charged as above.

Mr. White states that he was not aware until recently that Mr. Clark collected the rents at the camp. When the matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Cooper and himself, Mr. White was ordered to make an investigation. He went to the camp and overhauled the books and found that Mr. Clark had not turned over about four months rent moneys belonging to the Territory. A statement of the rents due from Mr. Clark was prepared and signed by him on Saturday, January 17, and he agreed to come to the Capitol Building yesterday morning to make a settlement. When he did go there yesterday forenoon it was merely to ask for memorandums of the accounts and he went away again promising to make good at 4 o'clock. Finally, to save trouble all around, Mr. White sent a clerk out to look for Mr. Clark who was unable to locate him in town or at the camp. Another clerk sent on the same mission telephoned to Mr. White that he had seen and talked with Mr. Clark down town on one of the principal streets. The clerk asked him why he had not paid over the money at the hour mentioned as he had promised and Mr. Clark is said to have replied that he was not aware that he had made any such agreement. With this information the warrant was then made out and Mr. Clark was arrested late in the afternoon at the camp.

Mr. White is authority for the statement that there are also other matters of shortage which have not been put in definite shape to be brought against Mr. Clark, but would be shortly. Clark was an appointee of James H. Boyd and has been prominent in anti-Dole Republican politics.

His Head Severed.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS CABLEGRAMS.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 19.—During a dense fog this evening at about 8 o'clock, a cable car, in Market street below Montgomery, ran down a foot passenger. He fell under the wheels and his head was severed from his body.

Cuban Reciprocity.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19.—The amended Cuban reciprocity treaty proposes a twenty per cent reduction in sugar duties.

Another Wireless Triumph.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19.—A wireless message has passed between President Roosevelt and King Edward.

Miles in St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 19.—General Miles has arrived in this city. He will be received by the Czar.

Plague Conference Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19.—The Plague Conference has adjourned without action.

MORE MONEY FROM CONGRESS

Senator Mitchell Introduces Big Appropriation Bills for Hawaii Territory.

Million for Honolulu Public Buildings and Three Quarters of a Million for the Harbor. Hilo Gets a Big Lift Also.

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE ADVERTISER.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19.—Senator Mitchell has introduced six more bills to carry out the recommendations made by the Commission which visited Hawaii during the summer.

One bill appropriates \$1,000,000 for public buildings in Honolulu and another \$750,000 for public buildings in Hilo.

By the terms of a third bill three-quarters of a million dollars (\$750,000) are appropriated for the improvement of Honolulu harbor and the fourth measure calls for \$100,000 for a Hilo breakwater.

The Governor's salary is fixed at \$8,500 per annum.

The Hawaiian light house bill calls for an appropriation of \$75,000.

DITCH BILL FAVORABLY REPORTED TO THE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19.—The House Committee on Territories today reported favorably the Senate bill providing for the granting of certain rights to the Hawaii Ditch Company. The bill carries with it the Mitchell amendment, which makes compulsory an agreement for the payment of compensation to the government for the rights conferred in the franchise.

The Hawaii Ditch bill as reported favorably makes many changes from the bill originally introduced, which gave Col. Samuel Parker and his associates a blanket franchise for the use of the waters of Kohala without the slightest compensation to the government. This bill went to the House Committee and Congressman Powers reported a new bill granting the right to construct two ditches in Kohala, and making the condition that the Hawaii Ditch Co. furnish all persons desiring water for irrigation purposes the same at a reasonable price, which in case of disagreement was to be determined by the United States District Court. The work must also be commenced within two years and completed within six years.

The Mitchell amendment which was introduced June 9th puts the ditch under the supervision of the Commissioner of Public Lands of Hawaii and provides specifically for compensation to the Territory. It is as follows:

"Section 4. That the compensation to be paid to the Territory of Hawaii by the Hawaii Ditch Company, Limited, for the rights and privileges herein granted, and for the use of the waters of the Territory, shall be fixed for periods of five years by the Judge of the United States District Court, or such persons as may be designated by him to act as arbitrators, and shall not be less than two thousand five hundred dollars per annum, which shall be the amount of compensation to be paid to the Territory of Hawaii by the Hawaii Ditch Company, Limited, for the period of five years following the completion of the ditch or ditches of the company, and the transmission of water through them: Provided, that water shall be furnished by the Hawaii Ditch Company, Limited, to homesteaders and settlers, for domestic purposes, at such rates as may be fixed by the Commissioner of Public Lands of the Territory of Hawaii, and that the rate to be charged for supplying water for agricultural purposes shall not exceed the rates charged for furnishing water to private persons or corporations: Provided further, that in consideration of the rights and privileges herein granted the Hawaii Ditch Company, Limited, its successors or assigns, shall comply with all reasonable requirements of the Commissioner of Public Lands of the Territory of Hawaii for the preservation of the forests, and shall plant not less than ten thousand trees each year for the first twenty years of the use of the right of way herein granted, and the Hawaii Ditch Company, Limited, further agrees not to divert any water from the streams or gulches of the Waimea watershed."

No Change in Sugar.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 19.—The price of raw sugar remains unchanged.